

21st century and join me in declaring English our official language. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 739, the Declaration of Official Language Act.

FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, now that the Republican manufacture of Government shutdown is over, as America's families gather for Thanksgiving, they should thank our President of the United States for hanging tough.

Because he did, no longer under this agreement will Medicare be allowed to be used as a piggy bank to pay for the tax cuts for the wealthy. Because he did, we now have an agreement that states that this balanced budget must protect future generations, ensure Medicare solvency, reform welfare, and provide adequate funding for Medicaid, none of which was accomplished under the Republican language.

It also provides that we protect future generations by adequately funding the environmental programs of this Nation. Again, it was not required under the Republican language.

Most importantly, the new language that the President's hanging tough allowed us to achieve last night was that it will now help working families as opposed to the original Republican plan of taxing working families.

We have now the framework for negotiation among the administration and the Congress, and hopefully among the American people, about the direction that this country will take, about our future, about future generations, and the kinds of decisions that we can make to ensure that we continue a progressive and civil society, or we can turn to budget cuts that are so drastic that they reach into the inside of almost every American family and pit a younger generation seeking education against an older generation that may need long-term health care and protection from rising health care costs.

The framework has now been set by the President of the United States, the negotiations begin next Monday, and I believe now we have an opportunity for truly a national conversation about the priorities of this Nation.

OUTLINE FOR BUDGET TALKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last night's agreement was a victory for the American people. The agreement gives us an outline for the budget talks, that

truly reflects the values of the people of the United States.

For months and months and months, Democrats have been fighting to protect Medicare, education, and the environment from the budget ax. Yesterday, President Clinton stood firm for those principles and he stood up for our seniors, for our students, and for our environment.

The agreement also reaffirms the commitment of Congress and the President to balance the budget. The question in this battle has never been, Will we balance the budget, but how will we balance the budget? Yesterday, the President ensured that we will balance the budget in a fair manner and in a way that protects health care for our seniors, educational opportunities for our children, and that protects our environment.

A balanced budget is a goal that we all share, but there is nothing balanced about cutting Medicare for seniors, student loans for our children, and rolling back environmental protections while cutting taxes for the wealthy.

Democrats believe that it is wrong to balance that budget by cutting Medicare, education, and environmental protections, while doling out massive tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans. That is why we are so pleased that the Republicans have agreed to protect those priorities and to put the \$245 billion tax cut on the bargaining table.

President Clinton has started the ball rolling on a real balanced budget, one that protects America's priorities: Protecting Medicare, education, and our environment.

BUDGET EFFECTS ON CALIFORNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I, too, am very pleased that we now have a framework within which to debate the issue of the budget. Who we tax and how we spend that money is what we will be seeing debated in the next 3 weeks.

I am very proud and pleased that President Clinton held firm in saying, yes, we want a balanced budget, we want to balance it financially, but we must balance it in terms of values as well.

I oppose the Republican proposal that is on the floor now for two reasons. First, because of its priorities; and second, because of the unfairness in the tax situation in it.

This morning, however, Mr. Speaker, in this morning hour is usually the time when we try to convey some information to our colleagues, in addition to our point of view. I want to say why I find the Republican-Gingrich proposal to be so harmful to my home State of California. I point out the harm to California because that is the State I represent, but other Members must look to their own States to see

the impact that this budget will have on individuals, on the State budgets, and on the economies of their own States.

I have this chart which indicates, Mr. Speaker, that in California, we will have, at a minimum, at a minimum, a \$72 billion cut in funds that go to California, to individuals, and I will explain in what proportion.

By comparison, our State budget is around \$55 billion a year. The cuts that this budget will give to California are more than, by almost a half again, the budget of California; over \$36 billion in Medicare cuts, affecting 3.6 million beneficiaries; 16, almost \$17 billion in Medicaid cuts.

In California, 26 percent of the children of California depend on Medicaid for their guaranteed health services. Two point three million of those children will be drastically affected, severely affected by this.

I just want to say, Mr. Chairman, in closing, in addition to that, 2 million people will suffer because of the \$3.5 billion cut in the earned income tax credit.

I urge my colleagues, look to your own States, see the severe impact that this will have on your people, on your budget, and on your economy.

CALIFORNIA'S VETERANS WILL SUFFER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues before me have said the issue is not the balanced budget, but who is going to pay for it.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today because it is vital to inform the country about the impact of the Gingrich budget on our Nation's veterans.

The budget bill is a three-pronged monster: Cuts to the Veterans' Administration, cuts in Medicare, and cuts in Medicaid mean our veterans will not have access to medical care when they need it most.

Let me tell you what the impact will be on California's veterans. Twenty thousand California veterans will lose eligibility for Medicaid under the current Gingrich budget. Of those veterans, 12,000 are over 65 years of age, and more than 2,500 of them are in nursing homes. How would any of us serving in Congress like to be told at age 65 or older that we no longer had health care? What are these veterans going to do?

By the year 2002, California will be the home of almost a million veterans who are 65 and older. Most of them will be eligible for Medicare, and all of them will be affected by the proposed Medicare cuts.

My colleagues on the floor say that is not a cut. I will tell you that these veterans will know that it is a cut.

Cut off from Medicare and from many hospitals that will be forced to close,